

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 170900Z JUNE 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 315

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1226

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: COREMO CONTACTS WITH PORTUGUESE JOURNALISTS

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1678; LOURENCO MARQUES 409

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, COREMO PRESIDENT PAUL GUMANE ABSENT FROM LUSAKA DURING PORTUGUESE FONMIN SOARES' TALKS WITH FRELIMO LAST WEEK. COREMO FINANCIAL SECRETARY VALENTINE SITHOLE TOLD EMBOFF COREMO DID NOT ATTEMPT MEET WITH SOARES DURING HIS VISIT. HOWEVER, SITHOLE AND OTHER COREMO STAFF WERE INTERVIEWED BY JOURNALISTS FROM PORTUGUAL, MOZAMBIQUE, AND ANGOLA. SITHOLE REFERRED TO ONE JOURNALIST NAMED JUDES (PHONETIC), WHOME HE DESCRIBED AS "SOARES' JOURNALIST," AS BEING IN GROUP. NAME UNKNOWN TO GRZ OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR VISITING MEDIA REPS.

2. SITHOLE SAID COREMO TOLD REPORTERS IT FAVORED HOLDING OF REFERENDUM IN MOZAMBIQUE ON TERRITORY'S FUTURE AS THIS WOULD SHOW COREMO'S SUPPORT TO BE WIDESPREAD. COREMO ALSO SAID IT READY TO MEET WITH PORTUGUESE ANYWHERE BESIDES
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LUSAKA AND DAR, "EVEN IN LISBON." MOREOVER, COREMO SAID IT FAVORED CONTINUED ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH WEST AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

SITHOLE SAID MOZAMBICAN JOURNALISTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM BEIRA, RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO COREMO'S POSITIONS AND CONFIRMED COREMO ENJOYED SUPPORT WITHIN MOZAMBIQUE.

3. ASKED WHETHER COREMO HAD RECEIVED ANY FEELERS FROM PORTUGAL ABOUT POSSIBLE TALKS, SITHOLE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NONE.

4. COMMENT: THOUGH COREMO APPEARS HAVE VISIONS OF CURRYING FAVOR WITH GOP AND WHITES IN MOZAMBIQUE, UNLESS IT HAS CONSIDERABLY MORE SUPPORT INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE IN ADDITION TO ITS SUPPOSED 30-40 MEMBERS IN ZAMBIA, DIFFICULT BELIEVE IT HAS MUCH FUTURE. IN OUR VIEW, COREMO IS VIRTUALLY MORIBUND ORGANIZATION WHICH CONTINUES EXIST ONLY BECAUSE OF GUMANE'S VIBRANT PERSONALITY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT SUPPLIED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU OF ZAIRE.
WILKOWSKI

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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